

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are pending in the present application. Claims 5, 6, 11, 19, 20, 25, 29-31, 33-35, 39, 40, 46, 49, 52, 53, 61, 63, 64, 68-75 and 77-79 have been amended.

Applicant respectfully submits that that above noted claims have been amended merely to improve form, rather than to further distinguish over the prior art of record. Accordingly, consideration and entry of these claim amendments should not raise any new issues, and should not be an undue burden.

Also, since the above noted claim amendments have not been made to further distinguish over the cited prior art, the amendments should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*. This should be particularly clear in view of the status of the pending claims as being allowed.

Enclosed is a red-inked Annotated Marked-up Drawing Sheet, wherein Fig. 5 has been corrected to denote expander 40 as described on page 26, lines 33-35 of the application. The proposed drawing corrections, and amendment of page 26 of the specification, have been made merely to improve accuracy.

Also enclosed are thirteen (13) drawing Replacement Sheets incorporating the above noted drawing correction. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and approval of the drawing Replacement Sheets.**

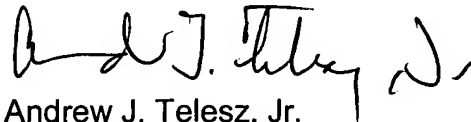
Favorable consideration and entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 and the corresponding drawing Replacement Sheets, are earnestly solicited without withdrawing the present application from issue.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCO, P.L.L.C.



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AJT:dmc

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Enclosures: One (1) red-inked Annotated Marked-Up Drawing Sheet
Thirteen (13) Drawing Replacement Sheets



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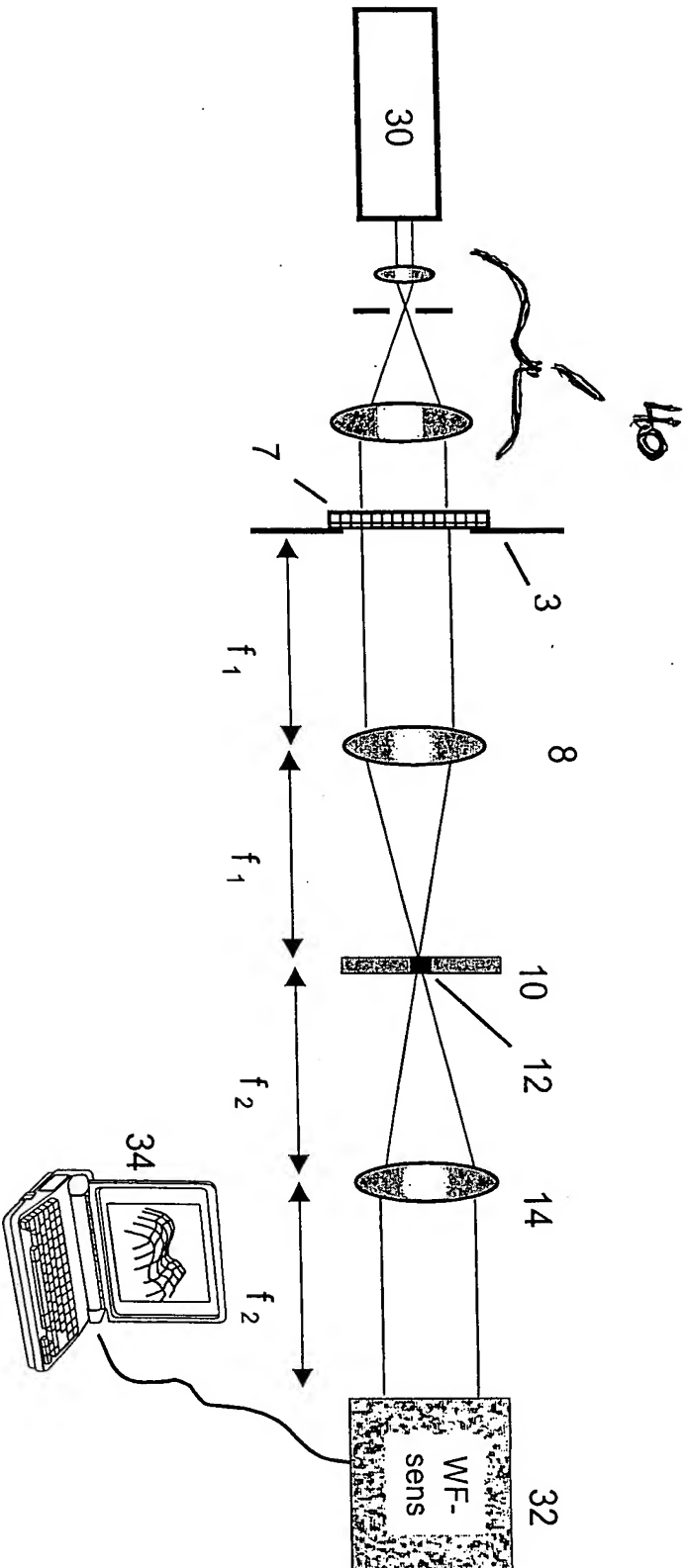


Fig. 5